

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL BASED ON TESTIMONY BY FORMER AMBASSADOR AKINS

THE FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF AN EDITORIAL
WHICH APPEARED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY "ARAB NEWS"
ON MAY 6:

BEGIN TEXT:

A TOUCH OF MACHIAVELLISM?

LITTLE IS KNOWN IN THE WEST, AND IN THE UNITED STATES
PARTICULARLY, ABOUT THE REASONS THAT HAD FORCED SOME PIVO-
TIAL ARAB STATES SUCH AS EGYPT, SYRIA AND IRAQ TO TURN THEIR
FACES EAST AGAINST THEIR OWN SOUND JUDGMENT AT THE HIGHT
OF THE COLD WAR BETWEEN 1952--1972. MR. JAMES AKINS, (SIC)
THE FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA, IS A STARTL-
ING EXPOSER BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COM-
MITTEE TUESDAY, PROVIDES HIS COUNTRYMEN WITH SOME CLUES
AS TO SOME WAYWARD TRENDS IN THEIR NATION'S FOREIGN POLICY
--A MAJOR FACTOR IN FORCING OLD FRIENDS TO SWITCH LOYALT-
IES.

WHE HAVE NO DOUBT AS TO THE VIOLENT SHOCK WHICH
WOULD BE EXPERIENCED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SHOULD THE
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BLUNT BUT WELL-DOCUMENTED ACCUSATIONS OF MR. AKINS BE

GIVEN FAIR TREATMENT BY THE U.S. MASS MEDIA. ALTHOUGH AKINS WAS KEEN NOT TO NAME ANY VILLAINS, HIS ACCUSATIONS, IF READ IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE, POINT AT THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

AKINS HAS A MULTITUDE OF GRIEVANCES AGAINST WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL BLUNDERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE HAS COLLECTED A LIST OF THESE BLUNDERS AND ADDS THE ACCUSATION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DESPITE OF ALL ITS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY, IS APPARENTLY IN FAVOR OF MAINTAINING THE HIGH PRICE OF OIL, AND IS ALLOWING--IF NOT ENCOURAGING--THE SOVIET UNION TO GAIN A FOOTHOLD IN SOMALIA: AN ARAB LEAGUE MEMBER STRATEGICALLY LOCATED ON THE RED SEA STRAITS.

UNLESS ONE HAS ATYPICAL MACHIAVELLIAN OUTLOOK ONE WILL REMAIN AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY HAD THE UNITED STATES ESELECTED TO IGNORE WHAT MR. AKINS TERMS AS A SAUDI OFFER TO DEAL WITH THE SOMALI QUESTION AND TRY WITH AID AND LOANS TO WIN THE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED COUNTRY TO THE FREE WORLD THUS NIPPING POLITICAL MANEUVERS IN THE BUD. EVEN THE EXPLANATION THAT THE LACK OF INTEREST SHOWN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN THE PROPOSAL TO DETER THE RUSSIANS FROM MAKING FURTHER INROADS IN SOMALIA WAS LINKED TO THE CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE CONGRESS TO APPROVE A U.S. NAVY FACILITY ON THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN--THIS EXPLANATION DOES NOT MAKE MUCH SENSE.

THE WAY THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN TRYING TO COMBAT SOVIET INFILTRATION IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST IS ERRATIC AT BEST. AT PRESENT ANOTHER PIVOTAL ARAB STATE IS BEING PUSHED BY THE SAME U.S. POLITICAL ANTICS TO DRIFT TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION. JORDAN, ONE OF THE STAUNCHEST FRIENDS OF THE WEST IN THE ARAB WORLD, IS BEING MERCILESSLY DRIVEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE SOVIT CAMP. KING HUSSEIN NEEDS AN AIR DEFESNE SYSTEM TO PROTECT THE SKIES OF JORDAN FROM THE PROWLING ISRAELI WARPLANES. HE WAS PROMISED LAST FALL BY THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE HIM WITH ONE FOR \$300 MILLION BUT THE UNITED STATES LATER DECLINED TO GO THROUGH WITH THE DEAL FORCING HUSSEIN TO APPROACH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SOVIET UNION FOR A SUBSTITUTE.

WITH THE SUSPENSION OF ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY ANKARA WAS ALL BUT DRIVEN INTO THE OPEN ARMS OF MOSCOW. THIS DANGEROUS POLITICAL BRINKMANSHIP DEFIES A RATIONAL EXPLANATION. FOR THERE IS NO LEADER WHO WOULD IN HIS FULL SENSES SCARE AWAY FRIENDS AND DRIVE THEM ON PURPOSE TO JOIN THE OPPOSING CAMP.

IN THE CASE OF THE PALESTINIANS AS WELL, WASHINGTON IS STEADILY GOADING THEM INTO BECOMING DESPERATE HEIHARDS BY A COMBINATION OF POLITICAL MANEUVERS, DIPLOMATIC SNUBBING AND SOME SAY EVEN MILITARY PRESSURE. IT IS CHASING THEM AROUND IN THE UNITED NATIONS LOBBIES GIVING RISE TO THE ILL-FOUNDED ALTHOUGH WIDLY HELD BELIEF THAT IT HAS GIVEN THE ISRAELIS AND OTHERS THE GREEN LIGHT TO GIVE THE PALESTINIANS BATTLE WHEREVER THEY MAY MEET THEM.

SINCE IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL EVER NORMALLY VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT THE SOVIET UNION WITH FREE POINTS ON THE SCORING BOARD OF EAST-WEST RIVALRY, THE ONLY REASONABLE EXPLANATION IS THAT WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW HAVE CONSLUDED A SECRET DEAL OVER THE HEADS OF OTHER NATIONS. MANY SUSPECT THIS TO BE THE CASE BUT NONE HAS SO FAR PRODUCED TANGIBLE EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT.

THE WAY SOUTH VIETNAM COLLAPSED ALL OF A SUDDEN IS STRIKINGLY SIMILAR TO THE LIGHTNING COLLAPSE OF THE PRO-WESTERN FORCES IN ANGOLA AND ONE IS TEMPTED TO DRAW THE WILDEST OF CONCLUSIONS.

WITH REGARD TO FIGHTING IN PUBLIC FOR A LOWER PRICE OF OIL AND DOING THE OPPOSITE IN BACKSTAGE CONTACTS THE ONLY VALID EXPLANATION TO THIS DUPLICITY IS PERHAPS THE DESIRE BY WASHINGTON TO KEEP THE WORLD ECONOMICALLY ON TENTERHOOKS UNTIL IT COMPLETES THE MISSION OF BRINGING ITS ONCE AILING ECONOMY TO A FULL RECOVERY. THERE ARE NOW SIGNS THAT THE ONLY REAL MAJOR BENEFICIARY IN THE LONG RUN FROM MAINTAINING THE HIGH PRICE OF OIL IS THE UNITED STATES. ITS OIL COMPANIES STAND TO RECEIVE MORE REVENUE, ITS ECONOMY MORE RECYCLED INVESTMENT FUNDS, IT SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS

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FOR AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF ENERGY MORE IMPEPTUS, ITS OIL CONSERVATION PLANS MORE TEETH.

MR. AKINS HAS THROWN THE DOOR OF CONJECTURE WIDE OPEN NOT ONLY AS TO WASHINGTON'S OIL POLICIES AND ANTI-SOVIET PLANS BUT ALSO AS TO ITS POLICIES REGARDING THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL AND PERHAPS THE ENTIRE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

IT IS GOING TO A REALLY DIFFICULT MISSION FOR THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION TO REFUTE THE CLAIMS OF MR. AKINS PARTICULARLY SINCE THE MAN IS NO RUMOR-MONGER BUT A HIGHLY RESPECTED CITIZEN WHO UNDOUBTEDLY HAS THE BEST INTERESTS OF HIS COUNTRY AT HEART. END TEXT

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